

● INTRO: My failure to clinch the thot
last Sunday. What influence has your
religion had on the shaping of
your character?

● The Clincher: James 1:19-27, 2:14-26
Paraphrase by J.B. Mayor.

I. How have you applied your Faith in
the conduct of your life?

● 1. Faith, not the intellectual ortho-
doxy over which the theologians
have fought and because of which
the churches have learned to hate
one another, but Faith as a work-
ing principle&

2. The estimate of experts.

10% of men succeed, 90% fail

The average man works with only
25% of his efficiency. There is
room for 75% improvement.

3. Shall we allow the expert to test
us this morning?

● Out of every 100 professing
Xns only about 10 are real ones.
I wonder if it is because the
average XN works his Faith only
25% of his full effort and capacity

● Here is a book, "Analyzing
Character", for vocational purposes
Why shouldn't we analyze ourselves

to see if we can use our faith to better advantage in the building of our characters and making ourselves of greater use in the world?

And we can, if we only will!
Read from "Analyzing Character" the hard luck story, page 276.

II. We have the Power to build our own characters.

1. The power of man to save himself implies power to destroy himself

Whether ignorantly or wilfully, man ~~can~~ destroy himself ~~by~~ when he allows riotous passions, selfishness and greed to control him, for these oppose the will of God in all nature. God is justice and for man to go beyond the Almighty's "Thus far shalt thou go but no further", means for him to lose himself and die.

2. We have the power to make or mar.

"We shape ourselves, the joys, the fears,

Of which the coming life is made,
And fill our future atmospheres
With sunshine or with shade."

Libraries full of discussions on Freedom of Will. The vital truth for us is not whether we have free

wills or not, but that our wills, however bound they may be to evil tendencies and habits, may become free by intelligent choice and rational volition, thru self-control and personal effort.

My choice of Jesus Christ freed me from my sins and reconciled me to both God and man.

But my freedom in X brot with it a sense of new relationship and a corresponding sense of responsibility. The new life required a new standard of living and I became responsible for my own life and conduct according to that standard. Freedom implies responsibility. Man is not a machine but a selfconscious intelligence, with rational volition and personal responsibility; and only as he uses his faculties, capacities and powers according to the laws of his being, or according to the will of God, can he rise to higher planes of life, can he save himself.

III. Character is built by intelligent design, steadfast determination and personal effort.

XI. Life, then, means Opportunity, the opportunity to build character in harmony with God and Nature and Man.

Character our only real

4. possession-all else is a trust.

III. 2. Law and Order governing all creation, Character is governed by definite principles (es

Christ embodies the principle of Godlikeness, the righteousness the goodness and the love of God.

Satan embodies the principles of living unto Death, of hell and damnation- selfishness, greed envy, hatred, lust, etc.

3. The Bible our text book.

Jesus Christ our ideal, our standard, our final authority.

4. As a graduate from the university goes forth to practice his profession, so should we go forth from the study of our Bible and from the presence of our Christ to practice our Faith. To apply the principles and standard of Xn living to all our relationships and activities of every day life.